

notable achievements as well. Second baseman and Troy resident Chris Demetral, a Greek American, assisted the Greek baseball team to a 7th overall finish. In men's basketball, Carlos Delfino, who was drafted by the World Champion Detroit Pistons in 2003 and will be joining the team this year, competed for the Argentinean Olympic team.

Our athletes were supported by a great number of coaches and staff who made their success in the Games possible. The coaches with ties to Michigan include Bob Bowman of the U of M in swimming; Larry Brown of the Detroit Pistons in basketball; Todd Dagenais of Michigan State University in volleyball; Steven Fraser from the U of M in wrestling; Kevin Jackson from Jackson in wrestling; Al Mitchell of Northern Michigan University in boxing, and Jon Urbanchek of the U of M in swimming. In addition to the coaching staff, three U of M alumni were involved in the administration of the Games. Jeffrey Benz is the current general counsel and Abigail Tompkins is a member of the United States Olympic Committee, USOC. Thomas Miller is the current United States Ambassador to Greece. All of these individuals worked tirelessly to assist the athletes in their pursuit of greatness at these Games.

I know I speak for all Michiganians in expressing appreciation and congratulations to all of the Michigan athletes, coaches, and administrators who took part in the 2004 Summer Olympic Games. The Games last a few short weeks, but the memories will be ingrained in the minds of all who saw them and shared vicariously in the efforts of these great athletes. For their commitment, drive and competitive spirit, I congratulate all the athletes of the 2004 Olympic Games, but it is with particular pride that I salute the athletes and coaches from Michigan.

2004 OLYMPIC GAMES

Mr. FEINGOLD. Madam President, I am sure that my colleagues will join me in congratulating the American athletes who competed in the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens, Greece.

The Olympics have a rich history, with records dating the first Olympic Games to 776 B.C. in Olympia, Greece. The early athletic contests allowed youths to highlight their physical prowess, with victory reflecting well upon the competitor's home city. The modern Olympic Games have endured for over a century, through times of war and peace, and this year, the Olympics returned to its origins.

The symbols of the Games—the motto, the flames, the rings—carry important meanings. The Olympic motto “citius—altius—fortius”, which is Latin for “faster—higher—stronger” encourages all to strive to achieve their personal best. The Olympic flame, lit by the sun's rays in Olympia and passed around the world, burns

bright while the competitions continue. The five Olympic rings represent the five continents, interwoven to demonstrate the universality of the Games.

Being an Olympian is a tremendous honor, and I commend the many athletes who represented our Nation well. America's 2004 Olympians are some of the finest athletes in the world. Dedicated to their sport, these individuals often devote years of their lives to training for the ultimate experience of competing in the Olympics. All competed well, and their hard efforts were rewarded as a remarkable 103 medals were earned by Americans in Athens.

I would like to particularly recognize the Olympians from my home State of Wisconsin. Fifteen athletes competing in the 2004 Olympic games have ties to Wisconsin, and I am proud of their efforts. These 15 athletes traveled to Athens to compete in a variety of sporting events, events that ranged from rowing to gymnastics to the modern pentathlon. It is my honor to recognize these fine competitors from Wisconsin:

Chris Ahrens. A graduate of Whitefish Bay High School and two-time Olympian, Chris earned a gold medal this year as a member of the men's eight rowing team.

Deirdre Demet-Barry. A seven-time national cycling champion originally from Milwaukee, Deirdre competed in women's cycling while in Athens.

Rebecca Giddens. A kayaker since age 10, this Green Bay native earned the bronze medal in the women's K1 flat kayak slalom.

James Gruenwald. Originally hailing from Greendale, James competed in his second Olympics in the men's Greco-Roman wrestling competition.

Dennis Hall. A proud cheesehead and Plover resident, Dennis competed in the men's Greco-Roman wrestling for his third Olympics.

Paul Hamm. A native of Waukesha, Paul won gold and silver medals in men's gymnastics events in his second Olympic Games.

Morgan Hamm. As a member of the U.S. men's gymnastics team, this Waukesha native helped lead the team to a silver medal.

Ben Holbrook. Ben is originally from Hartland and competed in the Men's quadruple sculls rowing competition in Athens.

Beau Hoopman. Raised in Plymouth, Beau rowed at the University of Wisconsin and won a gold medal in Athens with the men's eight rowing team.

Mary Beth Larsen-Iagorashvili. A graduate of Mukwonago High School who attended Marquette University, Mary Beth competed in the women's modern pentathlon.

Garrett Lowney. Athens was the second Olympic Games at which this Freedom resident competed in men's Greco-Roman wrestling.

Erin Mirabella. Erin, a native of Racine and former student at UW-Parkside, won the bronze medal for her performance in women's track cycling.

Jeff Nygaard. Jeff showed his Wisconsin roots when he named Brett Favre as a favorite athlete. From Madison, Jeff competed in men's beach volleyball.

Andrew Rock. A student at UW-La Crosse, Andrew won a gold medal as a member of the men's 1,600 meter relay in Athens.

Matt Smith. A graduate of the University of Wisconsin, Matt currently serves our country as an infantry captain for the U.S. Army. He competed as a rower in the men's lightweight four.

Neil Walker. A swimmer originally from Verona, Neil earned two Olympic medals—a bronze in the men's 4 x 100 freestyle relay and a gold medal in the men's 4 x 100 medley relay.

Mike Wherley. A Sun Prairie High School graduate, Mike rowed in his first Olympics with the men's four in Athens.

I offer my congratulations to these athletes. They demonstrated great passion and dedication to their sport and to the spirit of the Olympics. They made Wisconsin proud.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. TALENT. Madam President, I was unavoidably detained and unable to participate in rollcall vote No. 164 that took place on September 7, 2004. My flight was diverted from its intended destination of Reagan National Airport to Dulles International Airport and prevented me from being able to cast my vote. Had I been present I would have voted in favor of the nomination of Virginia Maria Hernandez Covington to be U.S. District Judge for the Middle District of Florida.

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS BILL

Mr. GRAHAM of Florida. Mr. President, I rise today to say thank you on behalf of the millions of citizens of my State who have been affected by the incredible events of the last month.

Thank you to all of the State and local officials who took quick and decisive actions that saved many lives. Thank you to the first responders who helped citizens evacuate and continued working to keep people safe throughout these major storms. Thank you to the thousands of volunteers from the Red Cross, who staffed hundreds of shelters that served as the only safe haven for many Floridians. Thank you to the professionals from FEMA and the Small Business Administration, who activated immediately and began to respond in a manner I have not witnessed before.

I did a workday as a hurricane recovery volunteer in Port Charlotte, FL, on August 31, assisting Red Cross volunteers to distribute midday meals to people who were still without power and then going door-to-door with FEMA workers for follow-up damage assessments. I was moved by the gratitude on the faces of people fighting to